

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A specimen dispensing system comprising:

conveying means for conveying a master specimen  
container containing a specimen and a required number  
5 of empty slave specimen containers on a conveyor lane,  
the master and slave specimen containers being aligned  
in a conveyance direction;

stopping means for temporarily stopping the master  
and slave specimen containers when the master and slave  
10 specimen containers reach a position under a dispensing  
nozzle in a dispensing unit; and

dispensing means for removing the specimen from  
the master specimen container by the dispensing nozzle  
when the master specimen container is temporarily  
15 stopped in the position under the dispensing nozzle by  
the stopping means and dispensing the specimen to the  
slave specimen containers when the slave specimen  
containers are temporarily stopped in the position  
under the dispensing nozzle.

20 2. The specimen dispensing system according to  
claim 1, wherein the specimen is dispensed to the slave  
specimen containers from the master specimen container  
on the conveyor lane concurrently with dispensing  
operations on other conveyor lanes.